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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 16 | Humidity 75% Generally cloudy sky Sensex 62,834 | Nifty 18,701 | Gold 54,080 | Silver 66,870 | Dollar 81.75 | Euro 86.53 | GBP 100.56

To mitigate aftermath of flooding during monsoon, Palike's lake division will install sluice gates at 160 urban waterbodies

GATE EXPECTATIONS

Rs 35 crore released for flood mitigation project

| Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

"By December end, detailed project report (DPR) will be finalised. We plan to finish the work by April-May 2023 — Shashikumar, chief engineer (lakes), BBMP

To flood-proof the city, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's lake division will be installing crest gates at 160 lakes by April-May 2023. The measure shall be realised using the funds released by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in response to the unprecedented flooding Bengaluru witnessed during the monsoon season.

A few months ago, several parts of the city were inundated due to overflowing lakes. The phenomenon majorly impacted IT corridors, roads and highways in the city limits. During the period, Bengaluru came to a standstill; the aftermath caused major inconvenience to citizens and normal life. However, the civic body is now planning to prevent a similar situation next year by installing sluice gates at the lakes.

Crest gates are metal barriers

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

Student bodies flay scholarship withdrawal

Centre cites free, compulsory education till class 8 under RTE as reason for scrapping scholarship

| Saumyangi Yadav
c-saumyangi.yadav@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The central government recently decided to curtail pre-matric scholarship for the students of classes 1 to 8 and limited it to the students of classes 9 and 10. This decision has been met with criticism by the students and activists.

Recently, students along with All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO) leaders and activists, staged a protest in Malleswaram against the government's decision to withdraw the scholarship.

"As the central government has decided to stop the scholarship of OBC and minority students, a large number of students will be deprived of the benefits... The government cannot revoke the rights of students for any reason. Scrapping of policies dedicated to education shows the government's negligence towards students," AIDSO state president Ashwini KS told BM.

The central government cited the Right to Education Act 2009 as the reason behind curtailing the scholarships, reasoning that under RTE, the government is required to provide free and compulsory education

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Rock it

Bethany High's tenth musical production – Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's The School of Rock. The musical is an uproarious, riveting, family entertainer with a strong message from the children to the adults and it will keep your heart and soul (but not your feet) glued to the stage. There are 15 songs ranging from rock and a good smattering of ballads too.
Where: St John's Auditorium
When: Dec 15 – 17, 6:45 pm
Tickets: bookmyshow.com

02 India x Japan

Japan Foundation has announced the finale of the Japan Film and Music Festival (JFMF) in Bengaluru, which is one of the biggest cultural events to mark the 70th year of diplomatic relations between India and Japan. The festival will feature recorded concerts by RADWIMPS, one of Japan's leading rock bands, followed by screenings of iconic animated movies by the world-renowned animator and filmmaker Makoto Shinkai.

Where: PVR Orion Mall
When: Dec 9–11
Tickets: bookmyshow.com

03 A thief's story

The Students of Jagriti's Theatre Arts Program present Charandas Chor. Habib Tanvir's celebrated play, Charandas Chor is the story of a habitual thief who uses wit and charm to escape the police. Charandas is considered impossible to catch until he meets a Guru and takes a vow to never tell a lie! The play follows the many antics of Charandas in this funny, heartwarming tale of survival.
Where: Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield
When: Dec 9 – 11
Tickets: bookmyshow.com

Dressed like the deities

Artistes dressed as Lord Hanuman and Lord Rama celebrate Kannada Hanuman Jayanthi in Gandhinagar on Monday.

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

Work? It's the cafe life

Working from cafes is the new post-pandemic trend that is here to stay, vouch Bengaluru's working professionals and coffee shop owners

Shreyashi Mukherjee
c-shreyashi.m@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Bored of working from home? Just head to a cafe near you

Life may be back to pre-pandemic times, but there are some changes that are here to stay. The need to socialise and work in a fun environment has never been more emphasised and a large number of working professionals and freelancers are doing just that: by opting for co-working cafes in the city. Cafe owners say that they have placed all amenities to make the experience comfortable for people who come to work there.

The trend started after the pandemic say café owners, and since then, the footfall in these cafes has increased quite a bit. Sumit Singla, owner of a coffee brewery, said, "We started our café four months back and a lot of people have been coming. We have in place charging points beside every seating arrangement, fast working wi-fi as well as a lot of board games so that if people get bored, they can play some games. There is also a library with a variety of books to choose from. Apart from that, we have seats which are quite wide with cushions for supporting the back so that people can sit comfortably for long hours. With work-from-home becoming popular, more people are coming in. Some of them even sit for the whole day and go back only for naps and then come in again."

Some of the café owners also say that these co-working spaces are a good place for people to meet other working professionals as well. Raymond Vishal, owner of Café Grey by Dongle & Co, said that they have been seeing a lot of people because the atmosphere of the entire space is quite work-oriented, and people also like to sit in the café and work. People who come here to work also can meet other people. A safe working environment is an added bonus, he said.

What makes such cafes tick? A casual environment that is fun and breaks the monotony. According to Udai Kiran, the owner of Dialogues café, the people who come here do not necessarily have to sit in one place, they can switch around between chairs or bean bags. There is also an open area with a smoking zone as well as conference rooms as well where people can attend important calls. For people coming in, there is complimentary lunch, and one drink and people can also read any of the books they like. There is also space for people to sleep if they are tired.

> **"Seeing other people work also motivates me to work and it feels good to work from a cafe**
>
> –Abhay Rathod, an IT professional

He added that a pass system on a daily or monthly basis makes it even more lucrative to patrons.

For working professionals, these spaces are a good way of working along with socialising. Abhay Rathod, an IT professional, said, "I have been visiting co-working cafes ever since I got to know about them. My office is still in work-from-home mode, so I often visit them. Seeing other people work motivates me to work and it is a feel-good place. There are games that we can play and books and that we can read and the availability of food makes it even more convenient."

Raman Deep, a freelancer, added that these spaces are much better than sitting at home alone and working. There is plenty of opportunity to meet other people and get to know about their work." Whenever I get an important project, I visit these spaces to complete my work."

However, there are a few perils of working in these spaces as one might get too involved in socialising and enjoying the games and other available activities. Shalini S, an Industrial Psychologist, said, "These places are like playgrounds. People might get too busy talking to others or enjoying the games and books. However, before they even realise, they might have spent more time socialising than working."

Half-hearted approach to save your skull won't work

AI cameras will record those wearing 'half helmets' as helmetless riders

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

If you are among those who continue to wear a 'half helmet' assuming that there is no one to catch you, be forewarned. The police have now decided to send challans to violator's homes if the cameras catch a motorist without a proper helmet.

The police say that they have updated the data in such a way that the AI cameras will recognise half helmets as an offence of not wearing helmet and the motorist will be penalised for helmetless driving.

Special Commissioner MA Saleem said, "Half helmets are not even helmets. Both the driver and pillion need to wear BIS-certified helmets. We have installed new cameras and the mechanism is such that the half helmets have been recognised as no helmets and challan will be raised. So, it is a must for people to wear full helmets." Though the police have been cracking down on half helmets, it has not been a full-fledged attempt so far as many including a section of cops are seen wearing such helmets. In fact, sometime back, police had decided to start a drive to crack on those cops wearing half helmets.

According to a police official, "The cameras will be able to capture violations like wearing half helmet, usage of mobile phone and signal jump etc. As per the rules, both the rider and pillion have to wear full helmets. For many months, the Traffic Police started the awareness campaign against all the substandard helmets worn by two-wheeler riders such as half-helmets, cap helmets or construction site helmets."

File photo of one of the many campaigns signifying importance of wearing a helmet. In this case, the god of death, Yama, hitches a ride to make a point

Bangalore Mirror
Half helmets? Get ready to be fined
Cubbon Park Traffic Police conduct drive to spread awareness about wearing full, ISI-certified helmets; fines to be implemented strictly

BM had on Sep 14 reported that traffic police would fine those wearing half helmets as helmetless riders

In talks with sellers

The city traffic police were also in talks with the helmet shops across the city to sell only BIS standard helmets and refrain from selling cheap quality and substandard helmets.

> **"These days, kids' helmets are available and these helmets should be worn by kids for their safety. I feel that schools should also join the initiative with the police**

The police are also keeping a tab on the footpath hawkers who sell substandard helmets and initially warn them from selling and if they continue their business, they would be booked under IPC 283 for obstructing footpath and their merchandise would be seized by the police. Police personnel were also seen earlier explaining to motorists if they could purchase a two-wheeler paying thousands and lakhs of rupees, why could they not afford a good quality helmet which would cost them somewhere between Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500.

Nanda S, a civic activist, said, "It is a good move that BIS certified helmets should be approved to use. We have seen many people wearing half helmets or not strapping the helmets. In both cases, it is not of much use. If we look at the previous data, it has shown that the fatal accidents have reduced as the helmets have been made mandatory. This is the reason why pillion riders were also asked to wear helmets."

Nanda suggested the police also start cracking down on those who let kids travel on bikes without helmets. "These days, kids' helmets are available. I feel that schools should also join the initiative with the police and not allow the kids to enter the school premises without helmets if they are being dropped by their parents."

Police probe property dispute involving Lucky Ali

Famous singer Lucky Ali alleged on Twitter that a Bengaluru-based 'land mafia' is encroaching on his land in the city and breaking into it "forcibly and illegally". The land is located in Kenchenahalli, Yelahanka. Lucky Ali took to social media to call out the city police for not helping him.

"I am getting no help from the local police, who are in fact supporting the encroachers and are indifferent to our situation and the legal status of our land," tweeted the singer.

Ali identified Sudhir Reddy as the main person making attempts to encroach on the property.

"Both the sides have filed the case in Yelahanka police station regarding the land ownership case. The police are investigating the matter. The case will be heard in court on December 7 so it now depends on the decision of the judiciary," said Anup Shetty, DCP North East to Bangalore Mirror.

SSLC exams from March 31

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board has released the final time table of SSLC 2023. The exams will be held on the following days: March 31- First language; April 4-Mathematics; April 6-second language; April 10-Science; April 12-Third language and April 15-Social Science. The exams will begin at 10.30 am every day.

CRIME FILES

Missing plaint was murder: Woman, lover held for killing her husband

Police have taken a woman and her lover in custody for allegedly killing her husband. According to the police, the lover killed the husband for obstructing the illicit relationship, and the wife and the lover were arrested by the Nandagudi Police of Bengaluru Rural district.

The murdered person is Anand of Chambe village, Malur taluk of Kolar. Anand had gone missing on November 21. In this regard, a missing complaint was registered at the police station.

Later, the police found that Anand was killed and dumped in B. Makanahalli, Hoskote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. The Nandagudi police, who registered a case and investigated the matter, succeeded in locating the accused. The police is still investigating the matter.

Tyre explosion on Airport Road

The tyre of a car exploded and the vehicle was destroyed near Chikkajala on Kempegowda International Airport Road.

The accident took place when the car was on its way to the airport from the city.

A major accident was averted as there was less vehicular traffic at the time. The cab driver sustained minor injuries and was admitted to the hospital.

Bike-borne miscreants snatch phone, scoot off

Three men threatened a young man in broad daylight and stole his mobile phone. The incident took place in front of Devika Bakery in Vidyaranyapura after three miscreants on a bike threatened a young man in broad daylight and stole his mobile phone.

The victim was standing near the bakery to drink tea. At this time, three miscreants who came on a bike snatched the phone and escaped. "The accused had checked the area and made sure that no one was there and then committed the act," said the police. The whole incident was captured on the CCTV camera.

Frustrated by unwell wife, man kills her by drowning

A man has been taken into custody for allegedly killing his sick wife. On December 4, the husband allegedly committed murder by pushing his sick wife into the water. The incident took place in an under-construction building in the city's Turahalli.

The victim has been identified as 50-year-old Shivamma. According to the police, the victim has been sick for the past two years and was unable to walk. "The husband got frustrated and murdered her. He always had to take care of her and that's why he tried to get rid of her," said the police.

The accused Shankarappa, was working as a security guard.

Murky truth of Sarakki Lake

Residents, lake activists report incidents of dead fish floating on surface of waterbody; they say it's the untreated sewage entering through inlets polluting the lake

Garima Prasher
c-garima.prasher
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Incidents of fishes dying at Sarakki Lake in south Bengaluru were reported in the last week say locals and lake activists. Although the cause remains unknown so far, the issue has been raised to the Lake Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and also to the department concerned of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB).

Frequent visitors and walkers at the lake said they have witnessed a lot of fishes dying over the past week. However, they have been removed from the water body promptly and systematically.

"It appears to be a systematic process of covering things up. We have noticed dead fish floating on the surface of the water body multiple times in the last week. Although, they are not there anymore," said a regular walker at Sarakki.

Locals say untreated sewage is entering through one of the inlets and also through the wetland area surrounding Sarakki. The wetland area is spread over five acre and it receives treated/untreated water from the surrounding before it enters the lake.

"We got a tip-off from a source about dead fishes on Saturday. I could see at least two to three big fishes lying in the outlet of the lake on Saturday. We have also been told that hundreds of dead fish were removed from the waterbody over the whole last week. The stench in the area was definitely of that," said Raghavendra B Pachhapur, a lake activist.

Experts say the water body hosts 90 bird species, including three near-threatened bird species – The painted stork, Oriental Darter and Black-headed ibis. While the upkeep of the lake inlets is a prerequisite for a healthy lake ecosystem, Sarakki Lake inlets are in shambles and may be one of the main reasons for pollution in the lake which has led to the fish kill.

According to a report by Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, the lake's water quality has degraded and is now classifed under Class E

"The inlets are not maintained properly. Although there is a diversion channel, sewage enters the waterbody even with a slight surge in the flow from this channel. While there is a sewage treatment plant of 20 MLD capacity, the lake water quality looks poor as it has turned brackish," said Dr Khitij, adjunct faculty at the National Law School of India University and a local.

According to lake activists, there is a need for continuous monitoring of lake water quality in coordination with KSPCB. Notably, the water quality report of the lake by the board indicates that it has degraded and was recently recorded to be under Class E.

> **"It appears to be a systematic process of covering things up. We've noticed dead fish floating many times on the surface**
>
> – a regular walker at the lake

"If BBMP could have taken note of this development at Sarakki Lake, it could have avoided the fishes being killed. It seems the civic agency has forgotten the goals announced as part of Mission Bengaluru 2022, where 20 lakes were to be monitored in real-time for water quality enhancement and improvement of biodiversity around lakes," added Pachhapur.

Lake activists and concerned citizens say there is a total lack of maintenance and accountability mechanisms when it comes to Bengaluru's water bodies.

"Although we are signatories of the UN's '30 by 30' proposal to conserve biodiversity, we are only coming to the fag end of things. The core proposal is based on scientific evidence and advocates the declaration of 30 per cent of the land area and 30 per cent of the water-covered area as protected areas. This has to filter down to the cities," added Dr Kshitij.

BBMP officials said that the issue is being investigated and will be resolved soon.

"While there have been a few fishes dying, the incidents, by and large, are restricted to a maximum of four fish kills a day. We are looking into various factors that could have led to this situation. However, it is not due to sewage entry as the waterbody has a huge functional wetland to filter out impurities. We have also reached out to the Department of Fisheries regarding the issue," said a BBMP official.

'Want cash in exchange of land acquisition'

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Several road widening projects in Bengaluru are on a pause as many residents are not in favour of land acquisition via Transferable Development Rights (TDR) and instead want cash compensation.

One such road project is that of Padarayanapura Main Road. The 1.8-kilometre-long Padarayanapura Main Road is a key road that connects Mysuru Road (Sirsi Circle flyover) to Vijayanagar. It has been decided to widen the road at the cost of Rs 235 crore (including Rs 140 crore for land acquisition). Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai being the Bengaluru development minister, will take the final call.

Housing Minister V Somanna said, "The widening of this road has been pending for many decades. We need to acquire 141 private properties while the rest of properties proposed to be acquired belong to BESCOM, KPTCL, BWSSB, BBMP and police. The compensation amount will be fixed soon."

Padarayanapura Main Road is congested with vehicles, walkers jostling for space

On rejecting the TDR idea, Somanna said that the project was earlier proposed to be taken up in 2016-17 via TDR process. However, people were sceptical of TDR due to a lot of confusion. Hence, they discussed with officials to pay cash compensation based on the Supreme Court's directive. The preliminary project report has been prepared in consultation with traffic police and BBMP officials, he said. "There is a proposal to construct an underpass near the police grounds as well. As the grounds belong to the police department, we hope that we won't face any land acquisition hurdles."

Chamarajpet MLA BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan said that he had held more than 10 rounds of meetings from locals and according to him, many locals are in favour of the road widening.

The move has been welcomed by motorists. "Padarayanapura Main Road is one of the shortest distances to travel between Vijayanagar and KR Market. However, the road is very congested. This is the reason why many want to avoid this road. The road widening has been pending for a long time and we hope that this project is taken up at the earliest," said Samiulla Khan, a resident of Padarayanapura.

whatsapp MIRROR
9591233247

Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Dangling danger
Yeswanthpur

Dangling cables can pose to be a big threat at the road behind Manipal Hospital, Yeswanthpur.

Debris everywhere
Kumara Park West

Debris and building materials fill the footpath in front of Nandini Parlour, Kumara Park West (Seshadripuram). There is no place for people to walk. This has been there since before the pandemic. Will BBMP take action?

Where is the footpath?
Victoria Layout

This is the state of the footpath in Victoria Layout.

Pre-budget idea: Tax tobacco out

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Anti-tobacco groups have written to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to hike tax on all tobacco products in the upcoming Union Budget.

The letter was written by the Consortium for Tobacco Free Karnataka (CFTFK) and Karnataka No for Tobacco (KNOT), a coalition working on cancer prevention, youth protection and tobacco control. The groups also sent representation letters to the Members of Parliament from Karnataka requesting the same.

Noting that GST for tobacco products was not hiked since 2017, the group urged the hike to reduce the affordability among youngsters. "The present GST rates combined with the compensation cess for all tobacco products is far below the recommended level of the tax burden (taxes as a percentage of final tax inclusive of the retail price) of 75% by the WHO (World Health Organization). The total tax burden is currently only about 53% for cigarettes, 22% for bidis and 60% for smokeless tobacco," said the group.

Renowned oncologist Dr Vishal Rao, who is also a member of the Karnataka government's High-Power Committee for Tobacco Control, expressed similar concerns. "We recommend the union government to hike tax on tobacco products in the budget 2023-24 as tobacco products have become more affordable over the years. This is one of the most powerful yet under-utilised tools to control tobacco usage. When the taxes are tripled, revenue can be doubled and tobacco consumption can be halved. This is a great opportunity to levy additional tax on tobacco to make it less affordable and reduce consumption," he added.

Anti-tobacco groups say GST for tobacco products not hiked since 2017, and a hike will prove deterrent

SJ Chander, Convenor of Consortium for Tobacco Free Karnataka said that the recent Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare report-Cancer Care Plan Management: Prevention, Diagnosis, Research and Affordability of Cancer Treatment observed that tobacco is a big risk factor for cancer and said that nearly 50% of all cancers in India are due to tobacco. "The committee was convinced of the fact that tobacco use is initiated in the teens when the youngsters are not yet mature to take rational decisions and insisted on disincentivizing tobacco. The report also said the cost of tobacco products in India is the lowest, recommending an increase of tax as it not only prevents easy initiation but also use of the revenue for preventive programmes," he said.

Who let this sewage out?

Residents near Ejipura Junction claim it is coming from Army Service Corps Centre, but problem has persisted for years with nobody taking onus

Garima Prasher
c-garima.prasher@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Sewage has been flowing onto the road near Ejipura Junction on Inner Ring Road

The Army Service Corps Centre (North) establishment near Ejipura Junction on Inner Ring Road finds itself in the thick of a row. According to residents of the area, dirty water is being discharged from the campus on to the road for over two years now. They say that many attempts to reach out to the officials with the request to stop the flow of water have fallen on deaf ears. The Army establishment on its part denies that any such water is coming from its campus and goes on to lay the blame on the civic agency's door.

As per an RTI document in possession of BM, the first complaint regarding the issue was raised on April 15, 2021, by a resident of the area.

"I live on the stretch and go cycling at least once a week. I noticed the pool of dirty water sometime in April 2021, while I was returning to Domlur from Ejipura. The water was black in colour and was stinking," recalled Dattreya Devare, trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust, who decided to raise the issue by filing an RTI to the solid waste management department of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

In his application, he demanded a copy of the letter that BBMP would write to army authorities seeking clarification. In response to the complaint and documents sought, a BBMP official wrote a letter to the admin commandant of the army establishment.

As per the letter, a copy of which is with BM, there was a constant flow of sewage water in the roadside drain beside the army campus. The official, in the letter, further concluded that since there are no commercial or any other properties at the said location to let out the sewage, the person concerned from the establishment should make necessary arrangements so that the sewage does not flow on the road causing inconvenience to public and motorists.

According to the RTI documents, the army centre wrote back to BBMP, categorically denying letting off sewage water on the stretch.

"No sewage water is being let off on the intermediate Inner Ring Road stretch from our campus.

> **"No sewage is being let off on the Inner Ring Road stretch from our campus. The roadside drain is blocked**
>
> –From army centre's letter

The roadside drain is blocked and despite the considerable effort put in by your (BBMP) side, the flow is still restricted in the drain due to which at times the drain overflows at places during heavy rains," read the response by ASC Centre.

However, not much has changed even after more than a year and a half of raising the complaint. The sewage is still flowing on the road, also posing health hazards to the residents and commuters.

"They replied saying that the sewage overflow is due to a blockage in the roadside drain, and they are making efforts to ensure that all water overflow in the campus is directed to STP or rainwater harvesting pits. However, that has not happened. Shockingly, the army established is behaving irresponsibly. They are supposed to take care of such issues even without the citizens or officials raising them. They are responsible entities and should behave like one," added Devare.

When BM reached out to the BBMP official concerned, they assured that the issue will be resolved soon and the flow of water on the road will be stopped.

IN BRIEF

Aero India: Defence and HAL officials meet CM

Officials from the Ministry of Defence and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on Monday met Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai regarding the preparations for the 14th edition of Aero India here from February 13-17, 2023.

They also visited the Air Force Station at Yelahanka here, which is the venue for the airshow.

The Ministry of Defence team led by Anurag Bajpai, Joint Secretary (DIP- Defence Industries Production) and Cdr. Achal Malhotra, CEO, Defence Exhibition Organisation along with C B Ananthakrishnan, CMD, HAL met the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary Vandita Sharma and Additional Chief Secretary Gaurav Gupta, the Defence PRO office here said in a release.

The Chief Minister during the meeting thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Ministry of Defence for selecting Bengaluru as the venue for Aero India 2023 and assured of complete support of the host State to make this edition the "largest ever" since its inception.

Aero India has carved a niche for itself globally as one of the premier aerospace exhibitions with 13 successful editions organised in Bengaluru since 1996.

The officials also met Air Cmde Manoj Kumar Yadav, AoC (Air Officer Commanding), Air Force Station, Yelahanka and discussed issues related to Aero India 2023.

The Ministry of Defence team took an on-site assessment at the Air Force Station Yelahanka and has fast-tracked all planning and execution of the mega event which will showcase India's resolve to achieve 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in aerospace and defence sectors, the release said.

HAL has constituted its teams and are ready to interact with the core panel of Government of Karnataka and Indian Air Force to ensure seamless execution of Aero India 2023. **PTI**

K'taka holds talks with World Bank team to make State climate, disaster-resilient

A delegation from the World Bank on Monday held discussions with the Karnataka government regarding the 'Resilient Karnataka Programme', which is aimed at making the State climate-resilient and also strengthen it to mitigate disaster risks, along with international expertise.

Discussions have also taken place regarding World Bank-supported USD 367-million rural water supply project in Karnataka, and additional USD 150 million for urban water supply project's second phase in the State, which are at the advanced stages of discussions for approval.

A delegation led by Auguste Kouame, Country Director, World Bank (India), met Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and top officials of the State government and held discussions.

This is Kouame's first visit to Karnataka after assuming office in August.

"My meeting with the Chief Minister was regarding the Resilient Karnataka Programme- in response to floods, drought and other climate events that have been impacting Karnataka over the past few years. We discussed how to take this forward and as the next step, we will be preparing a broad Resilient Karnataka Programme supported by the World Bank," Kouame said.

Speaking to PTI, he said it has been agreed that the programme would have strong focus on putting in place a cross-cutting institutional arrangement on disaster risk management across the State.

"It will also have a focus on urban flood management as a second component, specifically in Bengaluru. The third component will be on drought management across the State, and the fourth is coastal risk management and the blue economy, including the plastic waste management in coastal zones," he added.

In the last one-and-a-half decades, the State had witnessed seven or eight severe droughts, and severe floods, landslides and sea erosion in the last five years, including unprecedented floods in Bengaluru city.

There is also a record of facing severe drought and unprecedented floods in one year, which has caused large-scale damage to public property as well as upsetting the daily life of the people. **PTI**

Floodgates at 160 lakes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

that can be manually controlled to regulate the water flow into lakes. The measure could be effective in ensuring lakes do not fill beyond their holding capacity. The holding capacity of lakes can be reduced over time due to lack of de-silting. The sluice gates should account for the current holding capacity of drains and lakes .

BBMP chief engineer (lakes) Shashikumar told Bangalore Mirror that the civic body is planning to install sluice gates at all the lakes in Bengaluru: "However, depending on priority, around 160 lakes will get crest gates in the first stage. By December end, the detailed project report (DPR) will be finalised. We plan to finish the work by April-May 2023 to prepare the city before the onset of the rainy season."

"During the rainy season, excess water will be kept in a water spread area... After the rainy season or during the daytime, the water will be released back into the lake," Shashikumar explained.

The gates will be set up towards the inner portion of the bund and are usually near the waste weir. Though the BBMP will be undertaking desilting while rejuvenating lakes, as part of this project, the desilting exercise won't be taken up.

Tenders are yet to be issued. The project is being implemented under the funds released by CM for better flood management in the city — as part of the plan, Rs 35 crore has been released for installing crest gates. There are around 219 lakes in Bengaluru within BBMP limits.

After the devastating floods this year, Chief Minister Basvaraj Bommai released Rs 350 crore for flood-proofing. A majority of the funds have been allocated for fixing the links between lakes. Consequently, the BBMP has been undertaking demolition drives to remove encroachments of stormwater drains. As per High Court instructions, BBMP was supposed to have completed the demolition drive by October 25 this year.

Eviction delayed

Lake activists said traditionally all the lakes had sluice gates but the structures were removed over time. "About 1,500 years ago, all the lakes had sluice gate mechanisms but were removed. We managed to retain the ones at Nallurhalli and Vibhuthipura lakes. Traditionally, such a gate was known as a 'toobu', said civic activist Ram Prasad.

The BBMP's lake division had announced a lake encroachment eviction drive on November 17; but the drive has not taken off yet.

While there are encroachments in most lakes, in the first phase, 21 lakes were chosen for the drive based on the severity of encroachments. "The survey is ongoing; within 15-20 days, the encroachment drive will begin," said a BBMP official.

Pre-matric scholarship for class 9,10 students only

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

till class 8 to each and every child anyway.

"Already the schools are in deplorable condition due to lack of facilities and maintenance, and other basic amenities... So many children drop out every year as they are unable to pay the fees, or are forced to work due to financial problems. If the scholarship is dropped now, many children will lose their right to education forever," she added.

All India Students Association (AISA) representative said with the commercialisation of educational institutes and withdrawal of scholarships, education has become exclusive for some students.

"We condemn the decision of the Union government to stop pre-matric scholarship for SC, ST, OBC, and other minority students up till class 8. It has to be seen in conjunction with the slashing of scholarships happening in every educational sphere like KVPY, the slashing of PhD scholarships for minorities, etc.

These moves fulfill the vision set by the National Education Policy, 2020, which aims to make education even more exclusive through commercialising every establishment from KG to PG under the garb of autonomy/public-philanthropic-partnership, and so on," said Aratrika, a student activist of AISA.

"The document also coins the acronym 'SEDG' (Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups) clubbing together women, transgenders, SC, ST, OBCs, religious minorities, PwDs, rural students, and economically weaker sections and speaks of vague measures like special schools for them. This will lead to shrinkage of seats for all these communities causing greater internal competition," she added.

The pre-matric scholarship for minority community students covers eligible students from Muslim, Sikh, Jain, Buddhist, and other communities studying in a government or private school.

The activists added that one of the main objectives of this scholarship was to encourage parents from minority communities to send their children to school despite the financial burden and support their education.

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I, Samarth S/o Janardhan Pai R/o Flat 209, Deccan Expressions, #11/1A, 2nd A Main, 2nd Cross, Kodichikkanahalli, BTM 4th Stage, B'lore-560076 have changed my name to Samarth Janardhan Pai for all purposes, vide affidavit dated Dec-05-22, sworn before Notary Vani GK.

I, SHIVASHARANAPPA, S/o, Sidramappa Maddur and Residing at No.742, Basava Belaku, 1st Block, BSK 6th Stage, BDA Layout, Bengaluru 560098 have changed my name to SHIVASHARANAPPA MADDUR vide affidavit dated 01.12.2022 sworn before notary B V Nagabhushana, B.lore.

I Pasang Tshring Lepcha s/o Sonam Tshering Lepcha Gunina Felisa ,Gottigerre Bannerghatta Rd, Banglore-560083 have corrected my name to Pasang Tshering Lepcha for all purposes.

I, Aravindkumar S/o Kashinath R/o 11-1041/136/d Msk Mill Road Vijayanagar Kalaburgi 585103 have changed my name to Aravindkumar Kinni for all purposes.

I, SAATVIK NARGUND, S/o, Girish Nargund and Residing at Flat No.31106, Nikoo Homes 1, Thanisandra Main Road, Bhartiya City, Jakkur, Bangalore 560064 have changed my name to SAATVIK GIRISH NARGUND vide affidavit dated 29.11.2022 sworn before notary B V Nagabhushana, B.lore.

I, AADITYA SRIKANTH, S/o, Srikanth Subbamma Govindappa and Residing at No.158, 7th Main, Anugraha Layout Phase 2, Bilekahalli, Bangalore 560076 have changed my name to AADITHYA SRIKANTH vide affidavit dated 29.11.2022 sworn before notary B V Nagabhushana, B.lore.

I, KRISHNA MURTHY VENKATESH, Residing at No. 2397/28A, 1st Main Road, ISRO Layout, Beside Greens Veg Hotel, Bengaluru-560078, have changed my name to VENKATESHA KRISHNA MURTHY, vide affidavit dtd: 05.12.2022 before Notary B.S. Padma Prasad, Bengaluru.

I Jerome Manuel, Anand Immanuel S/O, Anand Immanuel R/o #202 Vc Twins Apts, #6, 1st Cross Road, Prs Layout, Dodda Banaswadi, Bangalore 560043 have changed my name to Jerome Manuel Anand for all purposes.

I Dyavayyanapalya Siddaiah Ravikumara S/O, Siddaiah R/o No15 Machohalli Gate Magadi Main Road Machohalli Bengaluru - 560091. have changed my name to Dyavayyanapalya Siddaiah Ravikumar for all purposes.

I, V Kusuma Kumari W/o Prabhakar Kunuthuri R/o No 156, Situated At R. T. Street, Near Jain Temple, Chickpet, Bengaluru 560053 have changed my name to Kusuma Kunuthuri for all purposes.

I, Vennela.K W/O, Nandan.K.N R/o No. 65, F1, SVM Mansion, 3rd Main road, Subbanna Garden, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru 560040 have changed my name to Vennela.K.Nandan for all purposes.

I, Shraddha Vijayakumar Benagi D/o Vijayakumar Benagi R/o #45, Kasturi Nivas, Bloom Field Garden, Ramach - andrapura, B'lore-560097 have changed my name to Shraddha Benagi for all purposes.

I, Naseeruddin Sharieff R/o No 214 30th C Cross BTB Area jayanagar 3rd Block Bengaluru 560011 have changed my name to Naseeruddin Shariff for all purposes.

I, Sudhindra Bhonsle R/o 313 DS Max Swastik Paduka Mandir Road, Turahalli, B'luru-560061 have changed my name to Sudhindra Bhonsle C.

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KG Layout's arterial road is a step closer to reality

BDA set to acquire land required to build road that connects all nine blocks of layout

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Major Arterial Road is an important lifeline connecting to the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has finally taken measures to complete the land acquisition required to construct the long-pending Major Arterial Road of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout.

The Major Arterial Road passes through the middle of the layout connecting Magadi Road and Mysore Road and the BDA has to acquire 321 acre and 10 gunta of land for the construction. The BDA had issued a notification in this regard on July 27, 2011. Thus, the BDA advised farmers, in a press release, to visit its Head Office at 11 am on December 9 to hand-over the land documents.

The BDA allocated Rs 465 crore for the construction of 10.77-km Major Arterial Road. It floated a tender on September 28, 2017 and the work began in 2018 and was supposed to be completed in two years. However, it was stalled since the BDA had to acquire 68 acres.

Site allottees say that formation of Major Arterial Road is very important to make the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout habitable. They said the Main Arterial Road would interconnect all the nine blocks of the layout.

"We are optimistic of the Assembly Petitions Committee monitoring the developmental work at the layout. I hope the land acquisition department will hand over the land to the engineering team for road formation. I also hope the road will become a reality by next year," said Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout Open Forum spokesperson Surya Kiran.

BM had reported on Nov 21 that the BDA chief had promised to provide all facilities to KG Layout

The Assembly Petitions Committee had earlier given clear instructions to complete the work of the 10.7 km long-pending Major Arterial Road of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout when it met on November 17.

BDA Commissioner G Kumar Nayak had assured the Assembly Petitions Committee of holding meetings every week to resolve the issues of Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout. It is said the BDA Commissioner held two review meetings in the last two weeks and he has instructed the land acquisition department to take the necessary measures to acquire the remaining land (68 acres) from the farmers.

Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout Open Forum secretary M Ashok said the formation of the road should have been completed a year ago. "I am very happy with the BDA Commissioner's decision to conduct review meetings and direct the land acquisition department to complete the acquisition of the remaining land. The review meetings must be meaningful and serve the purpose."

> **We are optimistic of the Assembly Petitions Committee monitoring the work**
> –Surya Kiran, spokesperson, NKL Open Forum

RWAs demand infra fix plan in 15 days

Iffath Fathima
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Over 60 Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) of the Mahadevapura Zone have petitioned the authorities to enable better infrastructure on Sarjapur, Iblur Outer Ring Road and to decongest the Vanapet and Neelasandra Road.

They have written a letter to Mahadevapura MLA Arvind Limbavali, with RWAs like Bellandur Development Forum, Mana Jardin Apartment Owners Association, Mantri Glades Apartment Owners Association, Namma Owners Court Association and others pointing out key infrastructure issues that the residents have been facing for many years now in their localities.

According to the residents, school children spend long hours in the daily bus commute and even reach late to school and back home because of the traffic congestion. They stated that the problem is the same with office-goers. Many are even scared that those who require ambulance service, may not reach the hospital on time.

The residents of Bellandur demanded for the Iblur Junction to be made a signal-free corridor and to solve all the land acquisition issues in the high tech zone and that a clear plan be announced in the next 15 days.

As per the comprehensive development plan 2015, many of the roads in Mahadevpura had to be widened, the residents stated that the roads have still not been widened, leading to traffic issues and even bad road conditions. "Haralur Road was 80 feet as per CDP2015 but we haven't even been able to get a clear 60 feet road, hence we should review the unplanned growth here in case we can't widen," the letter states.

The residents also pointed out that localities like Sarjapur Road need junction upgrades.

The residents have been demanding a traffic police station for Bellandur for long, however it is still not functional. They demanded expedition of the station approval without which, traffic administration is missing at Haralur, Kasavanahalli, Doddakanneli areas.

Other residents demanded that the new commercial and 50+ unit residential projects be halted as people tend to park haphazardly.

> **The letter spoke about the various issues schoolchildren and office-goers face daily**

The RWAs unanimously demanded that the resolution of infrastructure issues to decongest and enable road infrastructure as per CDP be done quickly

One of the residents told BM, "Not a single road here like Sarjapur road, Kasavanahalli or Harlur is made as per the CDP. We are tired of listening to reasons like Metro work or funds issues."

IN BRIEF

Students' union declares strike

The National Students Union of India (NSUI) has declared a 'bandh' across all universities and affiliated colleges on December 17. The students are protesting against mismanagement and lack of facilities provided by the universities and the government, added the NSUI.

One of the major reasons for the bandh is delay in announcement of results by the universities. The student union complains that even after 6-7 months of the completion of exams, the results have not been declared by the colleges and universities. They are demanding a systematic schedule for the announcements of results.

Moreover, the union is also protesting against the fee hike in government colleges across the state, stating that in some institutes there has been a hike of almost 100%.

The students have also mentioned issues with the bus transport services, mainly demanding free bus passes for the students. The NSUI added that bus services are infrequent to the remote areas due to which a large number of students are unable to use the affordable transport services.

The student union has mentioned that the bandh will be followed by more protests across the state in case their demands are not fulfilled by the government. **BMB**

No entry to border areas for Maha ministers

With the border issuing boiling up once again, Karnataka Govt has clarified that it will not allow the visit of Maharashtra Ministers to border areas. Revenue Minister R Ashoka on Monday alleged that the raking up of the border was an election stunt by the neighbouring state and they would not allow the visit. Instead, Karnataka was planning for a counter strategy. Directions have been issued to Belagavi Deputy Commissioner to take strict measures so that there is no disturbance to law and order.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Basavaraj S Bommai said that the border dispute with neighboring Maharashtra was a closed chapter. "We have already intimated the Maharashtra government in writing not to visit (Belagavi) in view of the current situation as it may create law and order problems. In spite of this, they have reiterated their visit to Belagavi which is not correct on their part. Maharashtra has moved the Supreme Court. I will talk to my Maharashtra counterpart once again," the CM said.

Bommai said that in case the Maharashtra ministers try to sneak into Belagavi, instructions have already been given to the officials concerned to take the suitable action as per law. "The state government will not hesitate to take action. The kind of actions which had been taken in the past would be done this time also," the CM added. **BMB**

Embrace change: SC tells CBI

The world has changed and the CBI should too- the Supreme Court observed while hearing a plea seeking guidelines for probe agencies on seizure, examination and preservation of personal electronic devices

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The great Indian digital divide

Women, rural poor falling through gaps in digital space

#NEW DELHI

The percentage of men owning phones is as high as 61 per cent while only 31 per cent of women-owned phones in 2021, according to a new report, which claimed that India's growing inequalities based on caste, religion, gender, class, and geographic location are being worryingly replicated in the digital space.

Oxfam India's latest 'India Inequality Report 2022: Digital Divide' report said on Monday that the reach of digital technologies remains limited to largely male, urban, upper-caste, and upper-class households and individuals. "Eight per cent of the General caste have a computer or a laptop whereas less than 1 per cent of the Scheduled Tribes (ST) and 2 per cent of the Scheduled Castes (SC) have it. As per the Mobile Gender Gap report by GSMA, women are less likely to use mobile internet by 33 per cent when compared to men in 2021," it said. The report said the percentage of men owning phones is as high as 61 per cent while only 31 per cent of women-owned phones in 2021. "India's growing inequalities based on caste, religion, gender, class, and geographic location are being worryingly replicated in the digital space," it claimed.

The report analyses primary data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy's (CMIE) household survey from January 2018 to December 2021.

The report looks at CMIE's data on internet access, mobile ownership, computer, and broadband availability to assess the inclusivity of digital initiatives to deliver public services and entitlements. The report also uses secondary analysis from the National Sample Survey (NSS).

Oxfam India report says only 31% women owned phones in 2021

The report revealed a digital divide based on employment status where 95 per cent of the salaried permanent workers have a phone whereas only 50 per cent of the unemployed (willing and looking for a job) have a phone in 2021.

The report also highlights that contrary to popular perception, the use of computer devices decreased in rural areas. Pre-pandemic, only 3 per cent of the rural population owned a computer. "This has come down to just 1 per cent post-pandemic. Whereas in urban areas, the number of people with computers is 8 per cent," it said. The use of digital technologies in delivering essential services such as education and health is also reflecting the country's digital divide and its consequences, the report said. Amitabh Behar, CEO of Oxfam India said, "India's growing inequality is accentuated due to the digital divide. The growing inequality based on caste, religion, gender, class, and geographic location also gets replicated in the digital space." **-PTI**

Exit polls predict victories for BJP

#NEW DELHI

The BJP is poised to sweep Gujarat and has an edge over Congress in a tough fight in Himachal Pradesh, exit polls predicted on Monday.

The exit polls predicted that the BJP is on course to a handsome victory in Gujarat and could create a record in terms of seats won. They also predicted that AAP will open its account in the Gujarat assembly and will finish third behind the Congress and BJP.

While most exit polls predicted that BJP is likely to retain Himachal Pradesh, one exit poll predicted Congress to be in the lead in the sweepstakes to form government in the hill state which has seen the power rotate between the BJP and Congress for several decades.

The exit poll results came out after the conclusion of the second phase of polling in Gujarat on Monday. The first phase of polling in Gujarat was held on December 1 and results for the two states will be declared on December 8.

The polls gave AAP a sweep in the MCD polls in Delhi. The results of the MCD polls will be declared on December 7.

According to the India Today-Axis My India opinion poll, the BJP is set to create a record in terms of its electoral performance in Gujarat. It also predicted AAP making sizeable inroads in terms of vote share.

Bride to be casts her vote for Gujarat Assembly elections

The exit poll predicted that BJP would win 129-151 seats, Congress 16-30 seats and AAP 9-21 seats in Gujarat. The poll predicted BJP getting 46 per cent votes, Congress 26 per cent and AAP 20 per cent.

The Times Now-ETG poll gave BJP 135-145 seats in Gujarat, Congress 24-34, AAP 6 to 16.

The TV 9 Gujarati gave 125-130 seats to BJP, 40-50 seats to Congress, 3-5 seats to AAP and 3-7 seats to others.

In Himachal Pradesh, which went to the polls on November 12, the Republic-PMARQ exit poll gave 34-49 seats to BJP with a vote share of 44.8 per cent. It predicted that Congress will get 28-33 seats with a vote share of 42.9 per cent. AAP is predicted to get 0-1 seat in the state with 2.8 per cent vote share, the exit poll said.

Himachal Pradesh has 68 member assembly. **-ANI**

Gold smuggling shifts from Middle East to Myanmar: DRI

#NEW DELHI

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has revealed that now mostly gold coming from Myanmar is being smuggled into India, and this has started after Covid-19. Earlier, a gold smuggler used to bring gold mostly from the Middle East but this trend has changed with time.

The DRI learnt this in a covert intelligence operation with codename 'Molten Metal'. The DRI registered as many as 160 cases and seized 833.07 kg gold worth Rs 405.35 crore, between April 2021 and March 2022. Most of the gold seized by DRI was of Myanmar origin while earlier it used to be of the Middle East.

"Even during pandemic time when the entire world was battling with Covid-19, the gold smuggling was going up and DRI had to make extra arrangements to catch the culprits. In a significant shift from the trend noticed in 2019-20, the largest amount of gold seized by the DRI in 2020-21 and 2021-22 was of Myanmar origin," said the DRI's report. **-PTI**

Lakhimpur violence: Court dismisses discharge pleas

#LAKHIMPUR KHERI (UP)

A court here on Monday dismissed the discharge applications of 13 accused, including Union minister Ajay Kumar Mishra's son Ashish Mishra, in the Lakhimpur Kheri violence case.

District government counsel (criminal) Arvind Tripathi told PTI that the court of additional district judge-I dismissed the discharge applications and fixed December 6 as the date for framing of charges against the accused.

A charge sheet has been filed against all these accused.

On October 3, 2021, eight people were killed in Tikunia in Lakhimpur Kheri during a violence that erupted when farmers were protesting against Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area. Four farmers were mowed down by an SUV, in which Ashish Mishra was seated, according to the Uttar Pradesh Police FIR.

Following the incident, the driver and two BJP workers were allegedly lynched by angry farmers. A journalist also died in the violence. **-PTI**

Ayodhya litigants: Foes in the courtroom, friends outside

#AYODHYA

They were sworn enemies in court and friends outside it.

Even as Ayodhya makes a conscious effort to forget the Babri battle, it continues to celebrate the friendship between the two litigants in the Babri case - Hashim Ansari and Mahant Ramchandra Paramhans.

The two bitterly fought the case in court, but the moment they stepped out they were thick friends.

Mahant Ramchandra Paramhans, the chief trustee of the Ram Janambhoomi Nyas, died in 2003 while Hashim Ansari, the oldest litigant in the case, died in 2016.

"They would travel together in a rickshaw to the court. Their counsels would bitterly contest the case and after the hearing, they would both return together in one rickshaw. Everyone used to be astounded by this unique relationship. They lived as friends and Hashim Ansari wept bitterly when Mahant Paramhans died in 2003," says Mahant Dharam Das who has succeeded him in the Nyas.

Today, things have changed and the litigants in ordinary cases arrive in a ring of security and the bonhomie is missing.

Hashim Ansari was among those arrested in 1949 when the idols allegedly emerged in the mosque. He was the main plaintiff when the Sunni Waqf Board filed the Ayodhya title suit in 1961. He repaired cycles for a living. Paramhans, one of the pioneers of the Ayodhya movement, had filed a petition in Faizabad court in March 1950 seeking the right to protect the idol.

Security tightened on the eve of Babri Mosque Demolition Day near Sri Krishna Janambhoomi, in Mathura on Monday

Vivek Kumar Srivastava, a senior lawyer in Faizabad court, recalls, "My father, also a lawyer, used to cite the example of these two when it came to friendship. He used to tell us that Ansari and Paramhans would even share a cup of tea in the court premises if the hearing was delayed. Other people in the court premises used to be shocked to see their camaraderie - more so, because of the case they were contesting." After the court hearing, they would come to Dant Dhawan Kund and chat while playing cards.

Senior citizens in Ayodhya say that their friendship lasted over six decades.

"There was never any bitterness between the two even when there were riots on communal lines in the country on the Ayodhya issue. Both used to criticise the violence and continue to chat with each other. Hashim Ansari was provided security after the Babri demolition when he was attacked by Hindus but he did not like the fact that four policemen sat outside his tiny house all the time," says Mahendra Nath, a retired government employee who used to visit Ansari to get his cycle repaired. **-IANS**

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IT'S NOT THAT COMPLICATED

An expert on polyamory tries to clear misunderstandings about non-traditional relationships

After the collapse of the cryptocurrency exchange FTX, the media shined a spotlight on the personal lives of founder Sam Bankman-Fried and his inner circle.

It turns out that Bankman-Fried, his on-and-off girlfriend, Caroline Ellison, who served as CEO of FTX subsidiary Alameda, and others involved in the company have dabbled in polyamory. Polyamorous relationships are a form consensual non-monogamy in which partners seek out multiple romantic or sexual relationships.

The Guardian noted that many of the people in the crypto empire's inner circle, who were sharing a luxury penthouse in the Bahamas, are thought to have been in a "polycule," meaning a network of interconnected romantic relationships. According to Coindesk, "All 10 are, or used to be, paired up in romantic relationships with each other."

In a 2020 post on her Tumblr blog, Ellison reflected upon her exploration of polyamory:

"When I…started my first foray into poly, I thought of it as a radical break from my [traditional] past. [B]ut [to be honest], I've come to decide the only acceptable style of poly is best characterised as something like [an] 'imperial Chinese harem'…none of this non-hierarchical bullshit. Everyone should have a ranking of their partners, people should know where they fall on the ranking, and there should be vicious power struggles for the ranks."

As a researcher who studies social media, online dating and polyamory, I am concerned that Ellison's posts – and the news reports covering them – could create misunderstandings about polyamory and polycules, and further stigmatise non-traditional relationship styles.

A poly primer

Polyamory – often shortened to "poly" – is relationship-focused and predicated on consent. Everyone involved is privy to the arrangement. It isn't strictly about sex.

These relationship networks are known as "polycules" or "constellations," and they can be complex and interconnected. The word polycule is a blending of "polyamory" and "molecule," reflecting relationship configurations that often resemble the chemical structure of molecules.

In hierarchical polycules, which Ellison refers to in her blog post, there is a central relationship usually referred to as the "primary" relationship. Other people outside the central relationship are often called "secondary" or "tertiary" partners.

Views of how status can operate within hierarchical structures vary. For example, the Scarleteen poly primer suggests that "A 'secondary' partner isn't necessarily less important, but may be a smaller part of someone's daily life."

The website Polyamory Today describes hierarchical poly as "One Primary Plus" where "Partners are not equal to each other in terms of power within the relationship and things like interconnection and relationship intensity."

Non-hierarchical arrangements, on the other hand, reject a tiered system. In these sorts of relationship configurations, partners are not ranked with terms like primary or secondary. It also means that no one person has greater priority or privileges or "veto power" over other partners.

Hierarchy doesn't mean subjugation

Debates about hierarchy are plentiful in poly circles and often elicit strong opinions – as Ellison's blog reflects.

While Ellison sees the hierarchical style as superior, there is no evidence that one style of poly is better than another in terms of relationship satisfaction or attachment security. I'd argue that all styles are acceptable as long as everyone involved consents to the arrangement.

Hierarchical styles can clarify expectations about roles within a polycule. However, even if Ellison is being tongue-in-cheek or sarcastic, I think it's important to note that the "vicious power struggles for rank" that she calls for are contrary to the ethos of polyamory. The Find Poly blog states that advocating without competing is a vital skill in poly relationships, whether they're hierarchical or non-hierarchical.

Furthermore, to those not familiar with polyamory, Ellison's post can be misread to conflate contemporary polyamory with non-consensual forms of non-monogamy. By championing the Imperial Chinese Harem as a model, Ellison invokes the legacy of patriarchal societies in which women served as wives and concubines.

Why polycules matter

Recent studies show that consensual non-monogamy is becoming more common, especially among younger Americans. According to a YouGov survey from 2020, 43% of millennials are "likely to say their ideal relationship is non-monogamous."

For this reason, Ellison's posts more likely reflect changing relationship norms, rather than sexual deviancy.

Riki Thompson (University of Washington) for The Conversation

MIRRORLIGHTS

Long Covid symptoms in kids change over time, reveals Lancet study

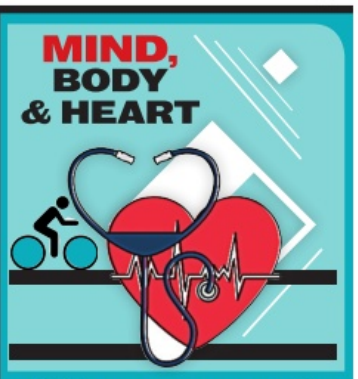
Symptoms of long covid experienced by children and young people change over time and while some of the children's original symptoms declined, new symptoms were reported, the world's largest study on long covid in children published in Lancet journal has revealed.

This was also the case when researchers looked at scales measuring poor quality of life, experiencing emotional and behavioural difficulties, poor wellbeing and fatigue.

"Our research goes one step further than existing studies and indicates that researchers need to track individual trajectories using repeated measurement on the same children and young people over time," said Snehal Pinto Pereira from University College London in the study published in The Lancet Regional Health.

Researchers asked children aged 11 to 17 about their health six months and 12 months after taking a PCR test between September 2020 and March 2021. They also asked them to recall their symptoms at the time of taking the test. Researchers asked the children and young people what they had experienced from a list of 21 symptoms, including shortness of breath and tiredness.

They noted that the symptoms experienced changed over the course of a year. —IANS



All you need to know about...

Thalassaemia

What is it?
In thalassaemia there's an abnormality of haemoglobin, the red pigment in red blood cells, which carries oxygen round the body to all its organs and tissues. With too little or no haemoglobin, sufferers can be anaemic (with symptoms such as palpitations, tiredness, shortness of breath and a pale complexion). Thalassaemia mainly affects people of Mediterranean, south Asian, southeast Asian and Middle Eastern origin.

What are the symptoms?
Thalassaemia shows up from a few months after birth and the most common problems are: Anaemia, severe tiredness, weakness, shortness of breath, pounding, fluttering or irregular heartbeats (palpitations) and pale skin caused by the lack of haemoglobin. Too much iron in the body caused by the frequent blood transfusions needed to treat anaemia, causing problems with the heart, liver and hormones if it's left untreated.
Some people may also have delayed growth, weak and fragile bones (osteoporosis), and lower levels of fertility.

What causes it?
Thalassaemia is down to faulty genes affecting the production of haemoglobin. A child can only be born with it if they inherit faulty genes from both parents.
If a child inherits a single gene they don't develop thalassaemia as the healthy gene from the other parent neutralises the faulty one.

What's the treatment?
Blood transfusions – as often as once a month.
Chelation therapy – this removes the excess iron from the body that builds up naturally or as a result of having frequent blood transfusions.
Staying healthy with a good diet, doing regular exercise and not smoking or drinking too much. The only possible cure for thalassaemia is a stem cell or bone marrow transplant, but it's risky and won't often be attempted.

—Dr Miriam Stoppard, Daily Mirror

mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
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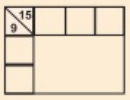
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

((18÷(12÷3/4)) / (18÷(12×3/4)))^½ = ?

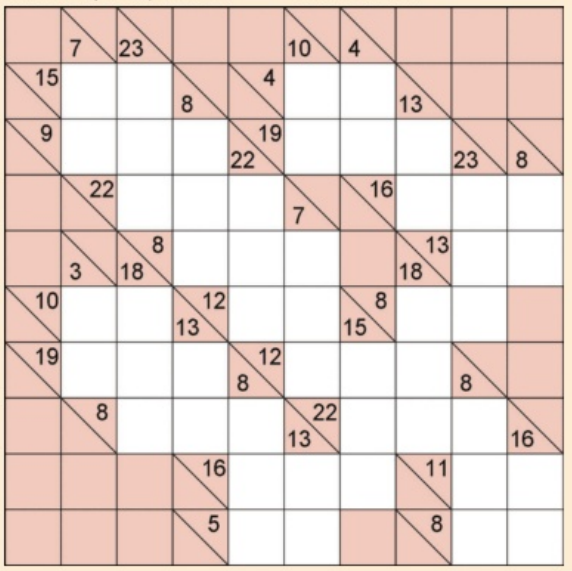
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

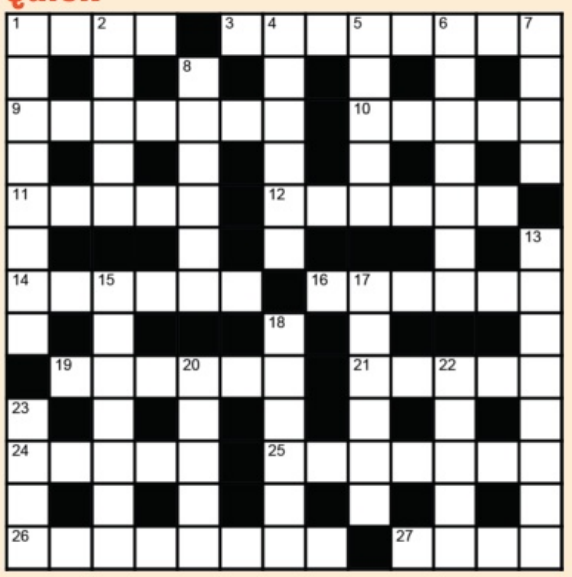


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 There are seven of them in a week (4)
3 Finger joints (8)
9 Alarm (7)
10 Take ___ __ : shoot? (3,2)
11 Mr Starr of The Beatles (5)
12 Deadly (6)
14 Street performer (6)
16 On to the land (6)
19 Royal city in Karnataka (6)
21 Foot joint (5)
24 ___ furnace : smelting furnace for manufacturing pig-iron, etc.? (5)
25 Furnaces for melting metals (7)
26 Be a participant in? (4,4)
27 Employed (4)

DOWN

1 Depict (8)
2 Long for (5)
4 Irritate; tease (6)
5 Statistical diagram (5)
6 Back pain (7)
7 Location (4)
8 Endeavoured (6)
13 Went backwards (8)
15 A small songbird (7)
17 Irritable or ill-tempered (6)
18 Dealer in textile fabrics (6)
20 In No. 1 position (2,3)
22 Skirts worn by Scottish men (5)
23 Conjoin (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: P EQUALS T

PZJ DJVP HJEYCR EFEURVP ER JRJQK UV ERCPZJO JRJQK.

Linemaro

You must be tired because you've been running through my mind all day

Mindchow

Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies

Joke of the day

I thought I wanted a career; turns out I just wanted paychecks

Loop

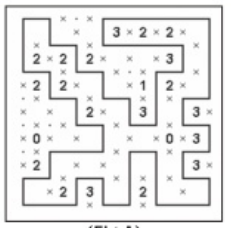
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

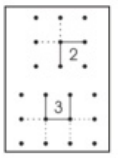
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

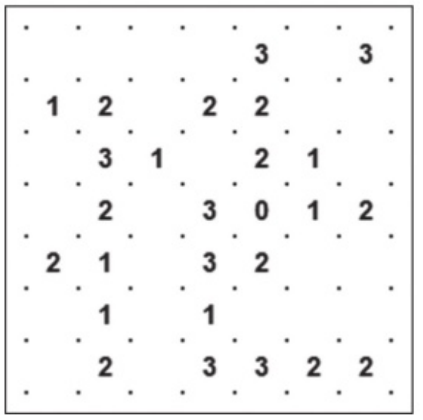
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



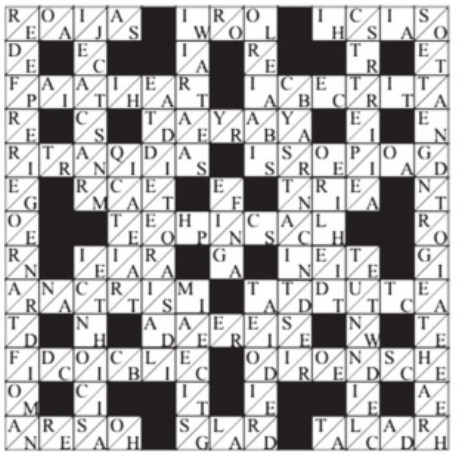
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



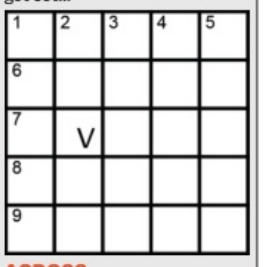
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Belts; 6 Drier; 7 Love U; 8 Oscar; 9 The Ms

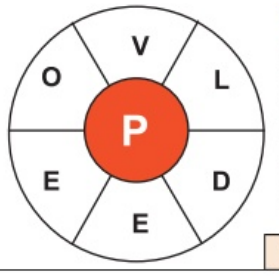
DOWN

1 Mr Boo; 2 Liver; 3 Cute D; 4 Leash; 5 Rests

Mensapuzzle

Start at one of the four corner letters and spiral clockwise round the perimeter, finishing at the centre letter to spell out a nine-letter word. You must provide the missing letters.

E	L	I
	F	E
	I	D



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **11** Good; **13** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

4	2		6		8		9	5
		3	4	9	2	6		
				3				
9	1						6	4
7	3						1	8
				7				
		4	5	2	3	1		
8	9		1		4		5	3

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 12

1 3 6 7

Medium = 5

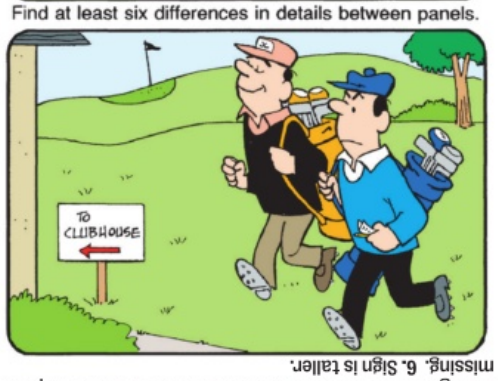
3 5 6 7

Hard = 12

2 5 6 3

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



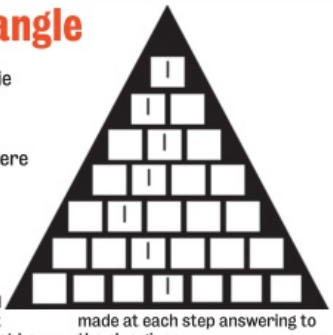
Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Arm is lower. 3. Flag stick is moved. 4. Tree is different. 5. Shoulder pad is missing. 6. Sign is taller.

Riddler

What connects Hydrus, Pictor and Monoceros?

Alpha triangle

1 Egoistic letter
2 Stephen King movie
3 Lash
4 Location
5 Ceremonies
6 Those who persevere
7 Withdraws



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

HUFF! PUFF!
WHAT'S WRONG, MOM?
A STRANGE MAN FOLLOWED ME ALL THE WAY HOME
THAT'S AWFUL!
9-19
I'LL SAY! THE LAST HUNDRED YARDS WERE ALL UPHILL!

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

YOU'RE NOT FROM THE TREE IN MY YARD
THAT'S RIGHT
BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?
YOU'RE NOT QUIVERING WITH FEAR
I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU AND YOUR BLOWER
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Hart of the city

SHE CAME INTO MY OFFICE, AND I KNEW SHE WAS TROUBLE.
I NEED YOUR HELP.
WHY IS IT THAT WHENEVER YOU COME AROUND, TROUBLE FOLLOWS?
I CAN'T HELP IT! I'M NINE! I'M GONNA BE TROUBLE FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER FIVE YEARS.
HEART OF THE CITY © 2022 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@OCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE GOING TO BE RUNNING THE VALENTINE AGAIN!
VALENTINE
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PINCH ME SO I KNOW IT'S NOT ALL A DREAM!
9-26
OW! THAT WAS A RHETORICAL REMARK!
BATUCK & DAVIS

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, messy situations will be under control. You may feel at peace. You may be able to make a proper balance between expenditure and earnings, which may increase savings. You are advised to avoid too much travelling or overworking; it may affect at your health. Students can start planning for their higher studies. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may face health issues, which may make you impatient. You are advised to control your short temper. You may spend your hard-earned money in buying worthless stuff, it may affect your savings. Lovebirds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics, otherwise there might be a breakup.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may meet some influential person who may help you in the progress of your work. Your network will be strong with the help of that person. You may prepare yourself to implement new ideas in to your work or business. You will plan to invest more capital into your business which may give you financial gains in near future.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, your mother's health may be good. You may enjoy work; you may get rewards after your hard work. Your social respect may increase now. Overworking of your mind may make you tired; due to workload, you may not be able to reach some family event.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may be satisfied with at work. You may plan for a short work trip. You may also visit some religious place to maintain your inner peace. Your gurus may show you the right path, which may give you clarity regarding your goals.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may feel dull; it is advised to keep your mind cool, it's golden rule for you to think twice before acting. You may travel to recover your money, otherwise you may lose your money. You are also advised to avoid adventure tours. Students are advised to go for an in-depth study to get success.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may plan to renovate your house. You may buy some artefacts or creative stuff which will improve your social status. You may also invest in properties and other assets. You are likely to enjoy your romantic moments with your spouse, which will increase emotional relationship with the spouse. Singles may find their soulmate.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may feel happy. Chronic health issues related to family members not be cured. Money which was stuck, may be recovered now, which may increase liquidity in the business. People who are in a job may get some incentives which will improve your financial health. Job seekers may get a job with the help of any relative or friend's reference.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today is important for domestic life. You may be busy with kids. You may hear some good news in terms of kids' education. You may buy some creative items for home or office to maintain your social status. You are advised to use wisdom while buying any household stuff or jewellery.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be impatient, which may reflect in your way of working. There may be some silly mistakes. Investments in fixed assets are advised to be postponed for some days. But with the help of elder's blessings, you may overcome a messy situation. in the evening, you may be focused towards your work.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you will be blessed by the moon, your destiny is likely be with you. Today you may be more energetic and focused for your work. Your hard work may pay you in terms of success. Your subordinates may help you. You are likely to go for short work-related trips. Some good news may come from your siblings. You may plan to renovate your house or office where your creativity will be tested.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may be able to control your expenditure on worthless things, which may increase your savings. You may be more creative today, you may use your creativity in your office or at home, which may enhance your social status. Lovebirds may likely to get some support from their family members and friends for marriage.

KIDZONE

Tarush Bohra, 6 years, Bishop Cotton Boys School

Kaveri Sriram, 8 years, Vallistur International School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(12÷3/4)=1
(18÷1)=18
(12÷3/4)=9
(18÷9)=2
(18/2)=(9)
(9)^½=3

BULL'S EYE
deep, DEVELOP, dope, elope, poled
eloped, epode, lope, loped, peel, pled, plod, pole,

STRIKE OUT

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE
DISBELIEF.

QUOTE UNCODE
The best weapon against an enemy is another enemy.

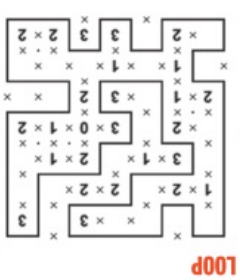
SUDOKU

4	2	7	6	1	8	3	9	5
5	8	3	4	9	2	6	7	1
1	6	9	7	3	5	8	4	2
9	1	8	3	5	7	2	6	4
2	4	6	9	8	1	5	3	7
7	3	5	2	4	6	9	1	8
6	7	4	5	2	3	1	8	9
3	5	1	8	7	9	4	2	6
8	9	2	1	6	4	7	5	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
I, It, Tie, Site, Rites, Triers, Retirees.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 x 6 + 1 – 7 = 12
Medium
6 – 5 – 3 + 7 = 5
Hard
6 / 3 x 5 + 2 = 12

LOOP



KAKURO

RIDDLER
They are all constellations.

FAST FIVE

B	L	E	S	T
R	I	D	E	R
O	V	U	L	E
O	R	C	A	S
M	E	T	H	S

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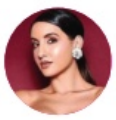

Thank you note! Nora Fatehi who recently performed at the ongoing FIFA World Cup 2022 took to her IG handle to share her appreciation for her team, who helped her put up her best act

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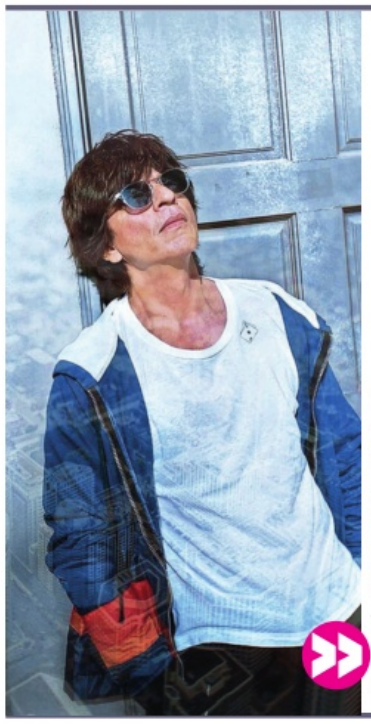
Getaway, make it posh

B-Town actors who own luxurious holiday homes

Bollywood actors own fancy addresses in Mumbai, but when tired with the din, they seek peace at their plush holiday homes. From Shah Rukh Khan's Alibaug bungalow to Aamir Khan's plush Panchgani farmhouse, take a look at the most luxurious holiday homes owned by B-Town actors. . — ETimes



Priyanka Chopra

Priyanka Chopra owns the perfect place to party, unwind and relax. The actress has a grand holiday villa reportedly located near Baga beach in Goa. When in Mumbai, the actress is often seen vacationing with her family at the sea-facing property. Priyanka's private palace comes with a price tag of Rs 20 crore, apparently it was a childhood dream for the star to own a beach house.

Shah Rukh Khan

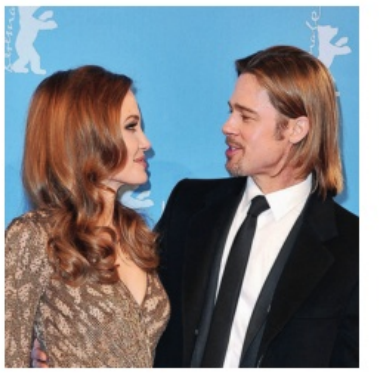
Among Shah Rukh Khan's many properties is a sprawling bungalow in Alibaug. Host to many of King Khan's parties, this abode is equipped with pristine interiors, a swimming pool and a sea-facing view. Just a jetty ride away from Mumbai, Shah Rukh Khan's bungalow is said to be worth Rs 14 crore.

Aamir Khan

Nestled amid majestic hills, Aamir Khan's holiday home in Panchgani comes with a huge open space where the actor and his family are often spotted relaxing. Aamir had reportedly bought this palatial farmhouse in 2013 for Rs 7 crore. Spread over two acres, this property has witnessed several private celebrations of the Khan family.

Anushka Sharma

Virat Kohli and Anushka Sharma own a plush home in the heart of Mumbai, but away from the city's commotion, the couple has invested in a luxurious holiday home. Said to be worth Rs 13 crore, Virat-Anushka's abode has four bedrooms, a terrace, outdoor dining and a private pool among a lot of open spaces. The couple has opted for a neutral palette of interiors and loads of wooden elements.



Bottle Battle: Angelina-Brad in legal tussle

Girl, Interrupted' star Angelina Jolie has hit out at her ex-husband Brad Pitt in bombshell court documents as they continue to battle it out over the ownership of their $28.4 million Chateau Miraval Winery.

Back in July, the actress, 47, filed a petition in Los Angeles calling for the removal of a temporary restraining order on their assets automatically in place since their divorce got underway in 2016, so she could sell her share, reports a media outlet. But Brad, 58, claimed Angelina's decision to sell her share of the winery to a complete "stranger" was to "inflict harm" on the business and also violated their agreement. Now, in court documents, Angelina has labelled his allegations against her as "frivolous, malicious, and part of a problematic pattern."

Angelina is also said to have claimed she didn't want to be in the alcohol industry when "alcoholic behaviour harmed our family so deeply". According to court documents obtained by RadarOnline.com, the actress slammed Brad's "frivolous, malicious, and part of a problematic pattern" claims, with her own legal team providing an update. Reports further states that Brad had previously claimed both he and his former wife made an agreement not to sell their parts of the property without one another approving it. The court documents go on to add: "Pitt's allegations that he and Ms. Jolie had a secret, unwritten, unspoken contract to a consent right on the sale of their interests.." — IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Covid for reel

Upcoming moving Hosa Dinachari (meaning new routine in Kannada) will showcase how the pandemic has changed people's daily routines. The film is bankrolled by Mrityunjay Shukla, Alok Chaurasia, and Gangadhar Salimath. Salimath, who has won Karnataka State best debutant director award for the year 2017, has chosen two directors – Keerthi Shekhar and Vyshak Pushpalath for Hosa Dinachari. "I have known both of them for quite some time. They worked as associates to me for the movie Ayana. Hosa Dinachari showcases the importance of love and warmth in everyone's life, no matter how young or old they are. The movie has four parallel stories intertwined with one another, and addresses love in different age groups. The subject looks fresh and aims at targeting feel good drama genre fans," Salimath said.

The film's trailer was released recently. The film will be released on December 23. "Initially, we planned to release the movie on December 9. When we took that decision, not many Kannada movies were scheduled for release on that date. Now, we came to know more than 10 Kannada movies scheduled for release on December 9. So, we decided to postpone the release of our movie," said Salimath.

Teaser is a hit

Director Kushal Gowda is elated over the tremendous response to the teaser of Once Upon a Time in Jamaligudda. The teaser released five days ago received over two million views.

"I am very happy with the overwhelming response. We are making arrangements to release this movie on December 30. Dhananjay is at his best in the movie. I like his acting skills, commitment and dedication. He is a versatile actor. I have known him for quite a long time," said Kushal Gowda.

Once Upon a Time in Jamaligudda will be Kushal Gowda's second film. He debuted as a director with Kannada movie Kannadakkagi Ondannu Otti that was released in July 2018. "Dhananjay plays Hiroshima in Once Upon a Time in Jamaligudda. It is a multi-faceted character. Aditi Prabhudeva is paired opposite him while Bhavana Ramanna plays a key role in the movie," the director said.

He said the shooting of the movie was held in Bengaluru, Chikkamagaluru and other locations. "We shot this movie at Shivamogga prison for 14 days. This prison sequence is very important," he said. The teaser also shows a police vehicle proceeding towards the prison and it also shows Dhananjay handcuffed walking into the prison accompanied by three policemen.